

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A telecommunications system, comprising:
5 a plurality of network clients including a positioning controller and a communications controller; and
a positioning server configured to receive position information from said positioning controller;
wherein said positioning server includes a timer for determining when said
10 position information is to be received from associated ones of said plurality of network clients.
2. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 1, wherein
said positioning controller receives global positioning network signals for determining
15 a position of an associated network client.
3. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 2, wherein said
communications controller comprises a cellular network controller for transmitting on
a cellular telephone network to said server.
20
4. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said
server sends one or more queries to an associated network client if a status
message has not been received within a predetermined period as determined by
said timer.
25
5. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 4, wherein said
predetermined status message comprises one or more identification signals.
6. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 4, wherein said
30 predetermined status message comprises one or more location-related update signals.

7. A telecommunications device, comprising:

a positioning controller adapted to determine positioning information for said telecommunications device; and

5 a wireless data controller adapted to receive said positioning information from said positioning controller and cause said positioning information to be transmitted to an associated server at predetermined intervals.

8. A telecommunications device as recited in claim 7, wherein said

10 positioning controller receives Global Positioning System (GPS) signals to determine said positioning information.

9. A telecommunications device as recited in claim 7, wherein said

wireless data controller is adapted to receive requests from said server to provide

15 positioning information-related updates to said server.

10. A telecommunications server, comprising:

a presence control unit adapted to receive and maintain presence information for a plurality of users; and

20 a location control unit adapted to receive and maintain location information for said plurality of users, said location information correlated with said presence information;

wherein said location control unit includes a timer for determining when said location information is to be received from associated ones of said plurality of users.

25

11. A telecommunications server in accordance with claim 10, wherein said location control unit is adapted to query an associated one of said plurality of users if a status message has not been received within a predetermined period determined by said timer.

30

12. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 11, wherein said predetermined status message comprises one or more identification signals.

13. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 11, wherein said predetermined status message comprises one or more location-related update signals.

5

14. A telecommunications method, comprising:
receiving one or more positioning signals at a wireless device; and
transmitting position updates from said wireless device via a wireless data network to a server, said server including a timer for determining when said position
10 updates are to be received from said wireless device.

15. A telecommunications method in accordance with claim 14, wherein said receiving one or more positioning signals comprises receiving one or more signals from a global positioning network.

15

16. A telecommunications method in accordance with claim 14, wherein said server is adapted to query said wireless device if a predetermined status message has not been received within a predetermined period determined by said timer.

20

17. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 16, wherein said predetermined status message comprises one or more identification signals.

18. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 16, wherein
25 said predetermined status message comprises one or more location-related update signals.